

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 03497 270829Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
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P 261448Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
ESD HANSCOM AFB MA PRIORITY
INFO CSAF WASHDC PRIORITY
OSAF WASHDC PRIORITY
AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLP PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3497

ESD FOR YW/CC. AFSC FOR SD. CSAF FOR ATF/RDPN. OSAF

FOR SAFALP. SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA AND USDRE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MILI AWACS
SUBJAC DANISH REQUEST FOR AEW PAYMENT PHASING

REF: USMISSION USNATO 5320 251058Z MAY 78

1. AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN WAS PLEASED (AND SOMEWHAT
SUPRISED) THAT DENMARK HAS TAKEN MOST POSITIVE STEP
TOWARDS ACCEPTING FULL SHARE FUNDING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
NATO AWACS AS PROPOSED IN REFTEL. OUR SURPRISE CENTERS
ON TWO ASPECTS OF REFTEL: THE FACT THAT DENMARK IS
PREPARED TO ACCEPT FULL SHARE OF \$30.5 M AND THAT THE \$20
M PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT AS AVAILABLE IN THE NEAR TERM NO
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LONGER SEEMS TO EXIST.

2. DISCUSSION WITH DANISH DEFENSE CONTACTS FRIDAY
ON THIS SUBJECT, PROVIDED SOME INSIGHT INTO THESE QUESTIONS.
DENMARK HAS SERIOUS OUTYEAR PROCUREMENT FUND LIMITATIONS
DUE PRIMARILY TO HEAVY 16 PAYMENT SCHEDULE EXTENDING
TO 1983. AN ADDITIONAL \$20 M FOR AWACS DURING THIS

SAME PERIOD WOULD CAUSE UNACCEPTABLE REVERBERATIONS
WITHIN DEFENSE IN PARTICULAR, AND WITHIN THE FOLKETING
IN GENERAL. THE \$20 M MUST COME FROM CEILING IMPOSED
BY PRESENT DEFENSE AGREEMENT THAT DOESN'T EXPIRE UNTIL
1981.

3. THE DANES ALSO REALIZE THAT \$20 M PAYMENT PREVIOUSLY
PROPOSED WOULD LEAVE A GAP OF \$10.5 M IN AWACS PAYMENT SCHEDULE,
WHICH THEY REALISTICALLY COULD NOT EXPECT ANYONE TO PICK
UP FOR THEM. WE BELIEVE THAH HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE
BEST OPTION FOR THEM, WHICH WOULD CREATE THE LEAST
AMOUNT OF ADVERSE REACTION HERE, AND STILL FULFILL
THEIR FULL RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE AWACS PROGRAM, IS
THE OPTION THEY ARE PURSUING IN REFTTEL.

4. WE CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL BY THE DANES A SIGNIFICANT
STEP FORWARD ON THE COMPLEX AND DRAWN-OUT
AWACS ISSUE AND THE FIRST POSITIVE MOVEMENT TOWARD
FULL SUBSCRIPTION BY THE DANES. THEREFORE, WE STRONGLY
ENCOURAGE POSITIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE PAYMENT PROPOSAL
CONTAINED IN REFTTEL.

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